

BOOKS



Aruba's Public Library brings pleasure and learning through books and films

A great step forward in the island's cultural life was taken recently with the establishment of the Aruba Culture Center. At the heart of the Center, located in Oranjestad, is Aruba's new public library. Set up about a year ago, the library was first housed in temporary quarters in the Government Building. This past summer it moved into its present permanent quarters, the building which used to house the Public Works. Now that it is permanently settled in its own home, the public library is expanding rapidly. More and more, it is developing into what its names implies: the cultural center of Aruba. With that development it is coming more and more to fill a vital need of the island's people.

An encouraging sign of the growing importance the library has assumed in Aruban life is that its membership and circulation have increased each month. Last July, for instance, 1324 books were given out; in August, 1471; and in September, 1675. At the same time, the library's membership has been climbing steadily.

A Caribbean Study Center

Even though it is still in its infancy in years, Aruba's library already shows signs that it is coming of age. Trends show that it is on its way to becoming a study center in the Caribbean. It is receiving requests for specific information about different phases of Aruban life, and further development in this direction is foreseen. To further develop this phase of the library, and to build up a valuable two-way exchange of information, Librarian Dr. Johan Hartog keeps in touch with various universities, scientific societies and institutions in Holland, the United States, and elsewhere in the West Indies.

Has 4000 Volumes

Aruba's public library presently has about 4000 volumes, and this number is constantly increasing. Not all books are catalogued and on the shelves now, since many of them were kept crated until the library moved to its present larger location. Right now a major task for Dr. Hartog and Mrs. J. Huibers, his assistant, is getting these books catalogued and in circulation. Voluntarily helping them at this job, to get it completed in the shortest possible time, is Dr. Hartog's wife, Mrs. Elisabeth Hartog.

Among these 4000 books are the over 400 that Lago presented to the library.

"The books given to us by Lago were a good selection and have proved very attractive," Dr. Hartog says. "They are very popular with members of the library, and I would say that at least one-fourth of them are always out."

Majority of the library's books are in English and Dutch; there are some in French and German, and the Spanish section is being added to. Dr. Hartog is also quite anxious to add as many Papiamentu books as possible.

Books of All Types

Books in the library range from detective stories to literary classics, from children's books to technical reference works. There is a general representation of good Dutch and English literature, with a section of South American literature being built up. General reading material, such as light novels and detective stories, is mostly in Dutch and English; however, there is some Spanish and French.

The children's section has a small



Dr. Johan Hartog, librarian, is in charge of Aruba's Culture Center.

Dr. Johan Hartog, bibliothecaris, ta en cargo di Centro Cultural Aruba.

THE LIBRARY'S MAGAZINES

The public library subscribes to a wide variety of magazines; these may be read in the library's reading room.

Among the magazines in English are Time, Life, Good Housekeeping, McCall's, Ladies' Home Journal, National Geographic, Reader's Digest, and Better Homes and Gardens. Dutch picture magazines include Panorama, De Spiegel, and Kath. Illustratie.

Dutch ladies' magazines are Vrouw en Haar Huis, Fris, Moeder, and Onze Kinderen.

Educational and technical magazines in Dutch include Wereld, Succes, and Universum.

Devoted to affairs in the Caribbean area are Caribbean Quarterly, West Indische Gids, Eldorado, and Caribbean Monthly.

Dutch critical reviews: Op den Uitkijk, Litterair Pasport, and Criticism.

The Dutch weekly, Elsevier, and the Spanish publication Revista de Cultura.

collection of books in Spanish, with the majority in English and Dutch. Most of the English ones were part of Lago's gift to the library.

A Storehouse of Information

The library contains technical works on all sciences, and is building up a special section on the Caribbean, especially on the Netherlands West Indies.

One of the most useful and valuable services a library anywhere can

provide is to make information available. In this respect, Aruba's library is especially equipped to become a valuable and much-used storehouse of information. With its many reference works, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other authoritative volumes, it should prove especially useful as a source of information on a wide variety of subjects.

In addition to the books it makes available to the people of Aruba, the library subscribes to around a hundred magazines and newspapers. (See the magazines listed elsewhere on this page.) Magazines, in English and Dutch, include news and picture magazines, critical reviews, ladies' magazines, educational and scientific journals, and sports magazines. There are newspapers from Holland (two of the most popular ones come by air), Aruba, Curaçao, and Surinam.

Many Films Available

An important part of the Culture Center is the film library with its almost 400 16-millimeter films. These include March of Times, comedies, sports pictures, travelogues, musicals (both popular and classical), adventure films, and westerns. Membership in the film library costs Fls. 25, and members pay only Fls. 1 each time they take out a film. Movies may be kept for three or four days. The film service is proving especially popular, with about 200 movies going out each month; many of these are taken out by members to show at parties in their homes.

Cultural and educational films will be shown in the amphitheater behind the library. Around 350 people can be seated in this beautiful amphitheater, which is covered by overhanging branches from nearby trees.

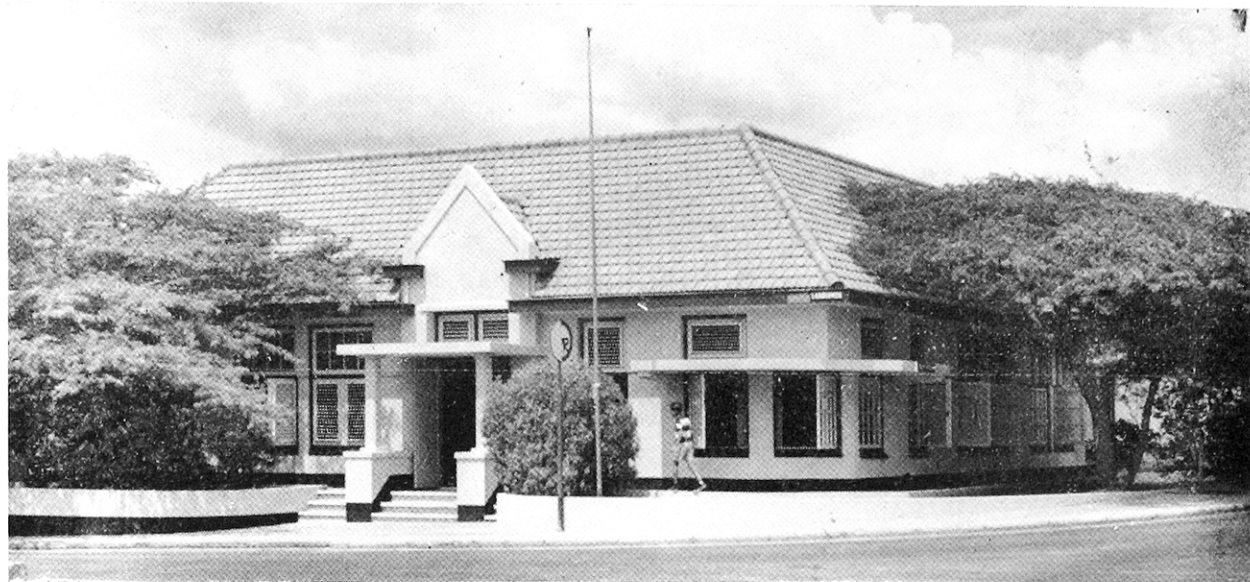
Cool, Comfortable, Convenient

The Culture Center enjoys a convenient location in Oranjestad. It is just off Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard across from the Klip. The building itself is cool and comfortable. Just inside the door is the counter where books are checked out. Behind this counter, shelves are filled with books in various languages. Patrons may circulate among these shelves, looking for just the book they want.

The reading room houses reference works and magazines. For those who wish to make notes as they read, there are several desks at one side of the room. A large table with chairs around it, and several easy chairs, make the room a comfortable place in which to read, whether for entertainment or to look up some particular bit of information.

Looks to the Future

Although still quite young, Aruba's new public library has made great strides since its establishment last year. Its many volumes are housed in an attractive building, and its further development and progress is a certainty. Today it is equipped to offer much in the way of entertainment and information to the people of Aruba. In the years ahead, it promises to assume an even greater part in the cultural life of Aruba and its people.



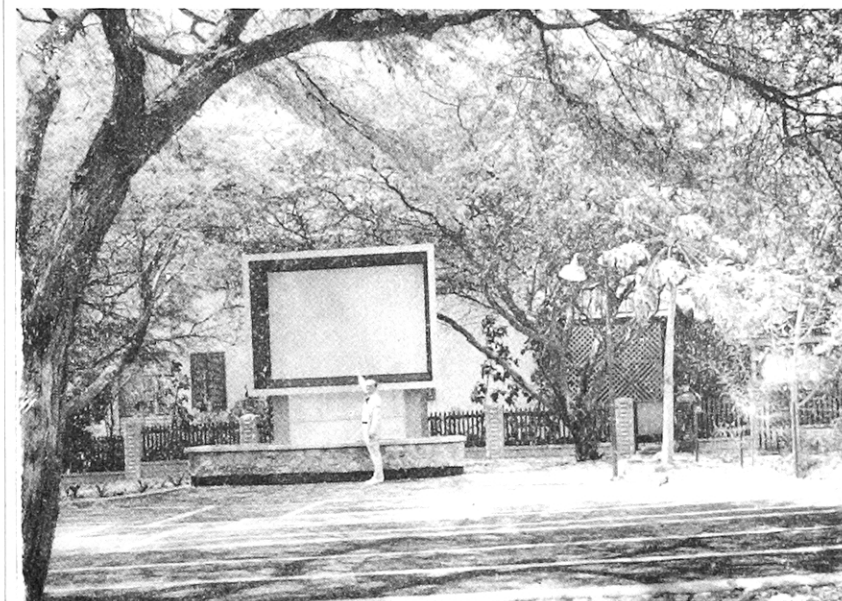
A pleasant place to browse is the large cool reading room. Among the many periodicals are news and picture magazines, ladies' magazines, educational and scientific journals, and critical reviews. Looking over some of the many magazines are Mrs. Edna Goslinga, Mrs. Cath. Harms, H. Kemmink, Mrs. Zus van den Berg, and Mrs. Irma Eman. Seated at the desk at far right is Mrs. Elisabeth Hartog.

E sala pa leza ta un lugar grandi y agradable. Aki bo por hanja hopi sorto di courant, magazine pa damas, educativo, y científico. Sra. Edna Goslinga, Sra. Cath. Harms, H. Kemmink, Sra. Zus van den Berg, y Sra. Irma Eman ta mirando algun di e magazinanan. Sintá na escritorio mas patras na banda drechi ta Sra. Elisabeth Hartog.

Books are checked out at the desk by Mrs. J. Huibers, shown being handed a volume from the shelves by Raymundo Ridderstaadt.



Bukinan ta worde entrega door di Sra. J. Huibers, kende ta tumando algun for di Raymundo Ridderstaadt.



A special feature of Aruba's Culture Center is the amphitheater behind the library. Roofed over by flowing branches of the trees surrounding it, the theater seats 350 people. Dr. Hartog points to the modern screen on which movies are shown.

Lugar especial di Centro Cultural Aruba ta e teatro patras di e libreria. E teatro ta carga 350 hende, su dak ta e ramanan di mata cu ta cubrie. Dr. Hartog ta mustrandu ariba e screen unda cu e pelicula lo worde demostrá.

Libreria di Aruba

Aruba su vida cultural a dal un paso padilanti ultimamente cu e establecimiento di Centro Cultural Aruba. Mei-mei di e Centro, poni na Oranjestad, tin Aruba su libreria publico. Un anja pasá e libreria a cuminza, y nan a poné temporalmente den un cuarto na kantoort di Gobierno. Poco tempo pasá nan a mudé pa su lugar permanente, unda cu tabata Openbare Werken. Awor e tin su propio lugar y a bira mas grandi.

Un senjal di curashi y di gran importancia cu libreria a nota den bida di Aruba ta cu cada luna miembros y circulacion tabata aumentando. Por ehempel, na luna di Juli, 1324 buki a worde fiá afór; na Augustus, 1471; y na September, 1675. Na e mes tempo, miembros pa libreria tabata aumentando.

Libreria publico di Aruba tin actualmente mas o menos 4000 buki, y es cantidad aki ta aumentando constantemente.

Entre e 4000 bukinan aki mas cu 400 tabata entregá door di Lago.

"E bukinan cu nos a hanja for di Lago tabata un bon seleccion y a prueba mashar atractiva", Dr. Hartog a bisa. "Nan ta mashar popular entre miembros di libreria, mi kier bisa cu por lo menos un cuarta parti di nan ta semper afór."

Mayoria di libreria su bukinan ta na inglés y holandés; tin algun na francés y aleman, y tambe na spanjó. Dr. Hartog ta ansioso tambe pa pone mas tantoe buki na papiamento posibel.

Bukinan den libreria, ta di storia di detective pa novelas, di buki pa mucha pa buki referí ariba trabao técnico.

E seccion pa mucha tin un coleccion chikito na spanjó, y mayoria na inglés cu holandés. Mas tantoe di e inglésnan ta parti di Lago su regalo na e libreria.

Un parti importante di e Centro Cultural ta e libreria di film cu tin casi 400 miembros. Pa ser miembro di e libreria di film ta costa Fls. 25.—, y cada miembro ta paga un florin cada vez cu nan fia un film. Film por worde tení tres o cuatro dia. E servicio di film ta birando popular, mas o menos 200 film ta worde fiá afó tur luna; hopi di esakinan ta worde demostrá den cas di famia.

Filmnan educativo lo worde demostrá den e teatro patrás di libreria. Mas o menos 350 hende por sinta den es bunita teatro aki, cu ta cubrí door di rama di palonan cercano.

E Centro Cultural ta den un lugar fresco, comfortable, y conveniente na Oranjestad. E ta net for di Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard cruzá for di Klip. E edificio mes ta fresco y comfortable. Ora bo drenta bo ta hanja e toonbank unda cu bukinan lo ser entregá. Tras di e toonbank aki, rekkinan ta yen di buki na diferente idioma. E encargando lo busca den e rekkinan aki, pa e buki cu nan pidi.

E sala pa lesa tin courant, buki tocante trabao, y magazin. Pa esnan cu ta desea di haci nota mientras nan ta lesando, tin varios lessenaar na un banda di e sala. Un mesa largo cu stoel rond di dje, y varios stoel los, ta haci e sala un lugar comfortable pa lesa, sea pa entretené o pa busca algun informacion particular.

A pesar cu Aruba su libreria publico tin poco tempo di existencia, el a bai hopi adilanti desde anja pasa cu el a establecé. Tur su bukinan ta den un edificio atractivo, y sin duda su progreso ta grandi. Awe e ta bon organizá pa ofrece entretenamiento y informacion na hopi manera na pueblo di Aruba. Den e anjanan cu ta bini e ta priminti di duna un parti mas grandi den bida cultural di Aruba y su pueblo.